

From: Joe Doherty
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

I am against allowing Microsoft to "donate" computers with its Windows operating systems to poor schools as part of the anti-trust settlement.

There are three operating systems that are appropriate for use in schools: Windows, Apple and Linux. Of the three Windows is the least adaptable to educational use and the most likely to fail on a regular basis. Apple has a long history of providing support for education, and Linux is a free operating system that will run flawlessly on recycled computers (as well as new ones). Both Apple OS-X and Linux are open-source operating systems, which means that students with a technical bent can write software for them. Windows is not open-source, which is probably just as well because it is a mess.

If Microsoft is allowed to "donate" \$500 to \$850 million dollars worth of software (at an actual cost of, what, \$1 million in duplication expenses?) as part of its \$1 billion settlement, it will represent a near-complete capitulation of this Justice Department. Microsoft should spend the entire \$1 billion on computer hardware, leaving it to the schools to decide which operating system they prefer.

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